

Delta Stewardship Council
Summary of Governor Brown's 2015 Drought Executive Order
Issued April 1, 2015

I. Save Water

- Directs the SWRCB to implement mandatory water reductions to **reduce urban water usage by 25 percent through February 28, 2016**. This savings amounts to approximately 1.5 million acre-feet of water over the next nine months, or nearly as much as is currently in Lake Oroville.
- Directs DWR, in partnerships with local governments, to replace 50 million square feet of lawns throughout the state with drought tolerant landscaping.
- Directs the Energy Commission, DWR, and SWRCB to create a temporary, statewide consumer rebate program to replace old appliances with more water and energy efficient models.
- Extends the 25% reduction requirement to campuses, golf courses, cemeteries, and other large landscapes.
- Prohibits new homes and developments from irrigating with potable water unless water-efficient drip irrigation systems are used, and bans watering of ornamental grass on public street medians.
- Requires SWRCB to direct urban water agencies to **implement conservation pricing and rate structures**.

II. Increase Enforcement Against Waste

- **Makes permanent the monthly reporting of water usage, conservation, and enforcement actions by local water suppliers.**
- Directs SWRCB to collect reporting information on water rights diversions and to conduct inspections.
- Large agricultural water suppliers (>25,000 acres) must include a detailed drought management plan in their 2015 Agricultural Water Management Plans.
- Small agricultural water suppliers (10-25,000 acres) must develop Agricultural Water Management Plans by July 2016.
- **Water agencies in high and medium priority groundwater basins must implement all requirements of the Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program immediately.** DWR will refer non-compliant agencies to SWRCB for enforcement actions.

III. Invest in New Technologies

Directs the Energy Commission, DWR, and SWRCB to implement a Water Energy Technology program to deploy innovative water management technologies.

IV. Streamline Government Response

- **Prioritizes state review and decision-making of water infrastructure projects and requires state agencies to report to the Governor's Office on any application pending for more than 90 days.**
- **Streamlines permitting and review of emergency drought salinity barriers** – necessary to keep freshwater supplies in upstream reservoirs for human use and habitat protection for endangered species.
- **Simplifies the review and approval process for voluntary water transfers** and emergency drinking water projects.
- Directs state departments to provide temporary relocation assistance to families who need to move from homes where domestic wells have run dry to housing with running water.